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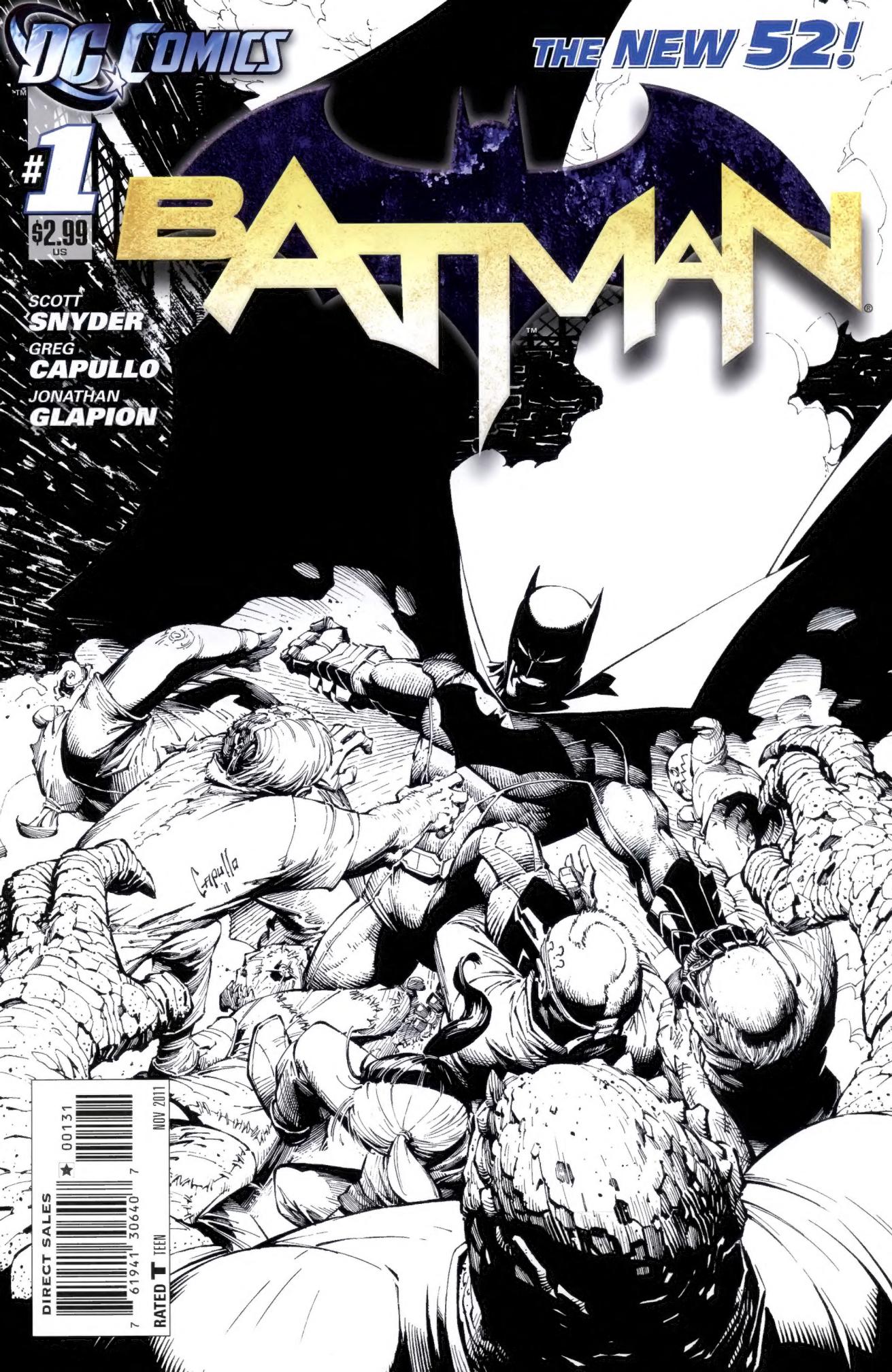
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Every Saturday, the Gotham Gazette includes a small life-styles piece called "Gotham Is."

In the column, random Gothamites are asked to complete the sentence "Gotham is..." using three words or less.

The Gazette has been running the "Gotham Is" column for years, ever since I was a boy.

Here are some of the words used to describe Gotham the past few weeks:

"Damned."

"Cursed."

"Bedlam."

"Murderous..."

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BATMAN

IN

KNIFE TRICK

Gotham is
"villainous."

Gotham is
"a losing game."

Gotham is
"hopeless."

YOU'RE
ALL OURS,
NOW.

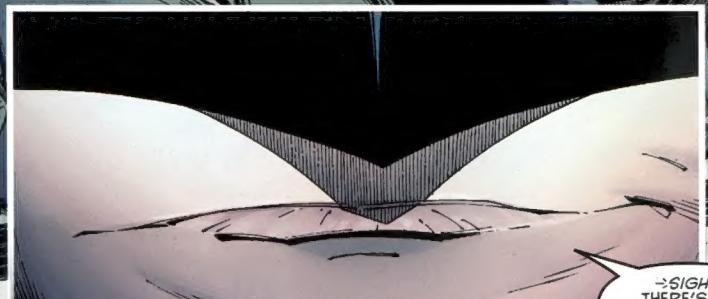
NO
WAY OUT,
BATS.

SCOTT SNYDER
WRITER
JONATHAN GLAPION
INKER
FCO PLASCENCIA
COLORS

RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S
JIMMY BETANCOURT LETTERS

KATIE KUBERT | JANELLE ASSELIN | MIKE MARTS
ASSISTANT EDITOR | ASSOCIATE EDITOR | EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE



—SIGH—
THERE'S NO
PLACE LIKE
HOME.



Once in a while, someone names one of the city's villains as their answer to the "Gotham Is" question.

Usually it's some kid, a teenager going for shock value.

But now and then someone actually tries to make the argument that the city is best reflected in its villains.



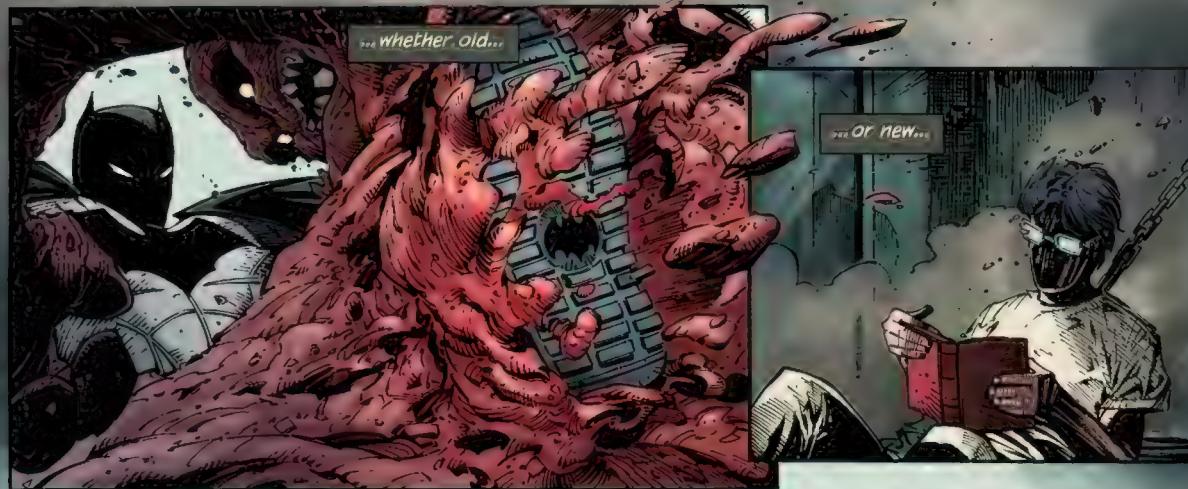
For example, "Gotham is Two-Face," meaning Gotham is a city at odds with itself.

Meaning the city is little more than a cannibalistic monster.



Or "Gotham is Killer Croc."





Granted, now and then, one of them will do something that catches even me off-guard...

I WAS HERE
twice

...something particularly depraved...

...or twisted...

THERE
YOU ARE!

AND HERE I
WAS BEGINNING
TO THINK YOU
WERE GOING
TO DIE WITHOUT
EVEN SAYING
GOODBYE!

YOU
READY
TO DO
THIS?

AW,
ALWAYS SO
SERIOUS.
FINE,
THEN...



"Gotham is Batman."

"Gotham is Batman's city."

"Gotham is the Bat...."

All answers I'm partial to, myself.



Still, I like to think a vote
for Batman is a broader
affirmation--a vote for
all of Gotham's heroes.

A vote for
the G.C.P.D.

Honest, tireless men like
Commissioner Jim Gordon.

I STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
A FULL-SCALE
BREAKOUT? WITH
NO WARNING?

IT WASN'T A
BREAKOUT.

I'VE BEEN
INVESTIGATING
A WEAK LINK AT
ARKHAM ASYLUM.
A GUARD NAMED
MATTHEWS. I WAS
COMING FOR
HIM.

HE SPRANG
THE DOORS
TO STOP ME.

NOT DAN MATTHEWS?
HE'S ONE OF THE
BEST MEN ON PAYROLL
THERE...I'VE KNOWN
HIM SINCE HE WAS
AN ACADEMY
BOY.

HE'S
GOT A FATHER
WITH HEALTH
PROBLEMS.
A DIVORCE
LOOMING.

HE
AND BELLE
ARE GETTING
DIVORCED?

I HAD NO
IDEA.

NEITHER
DOES SHE.

GEEZ. WHO'S
THE NEW PAL?

COCKTAIL
WAITRESS.
ICEBERG LOUNGE.
IMPRESSIVE SHEET
OF HER OWN.







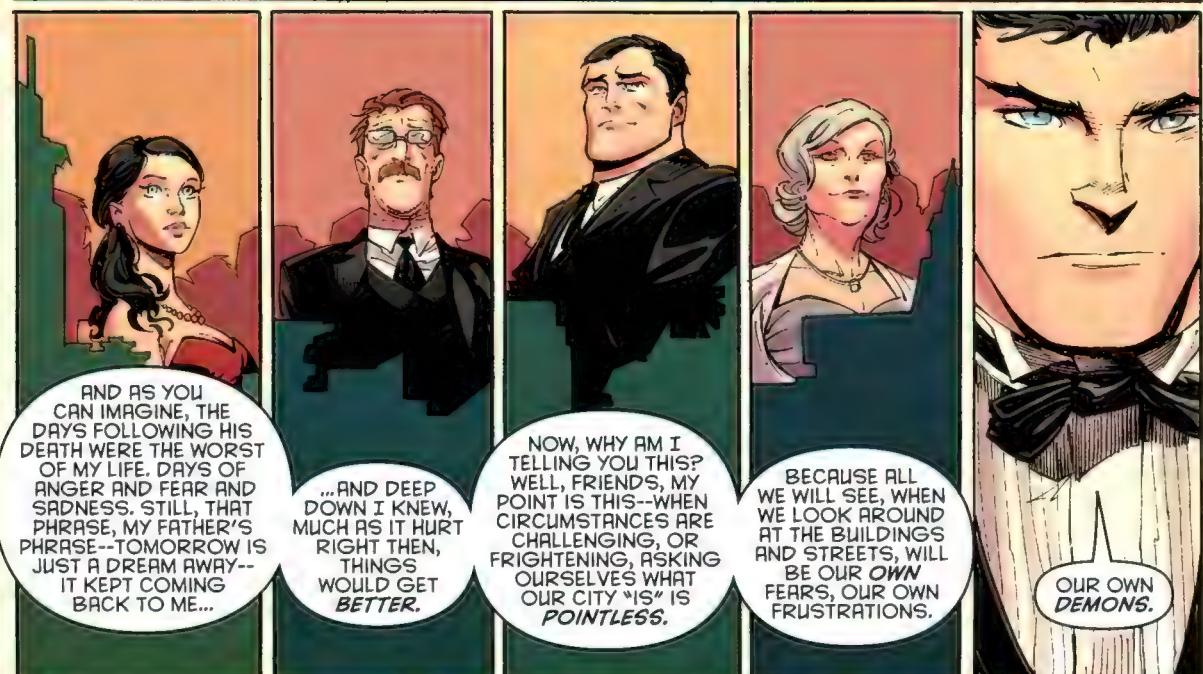
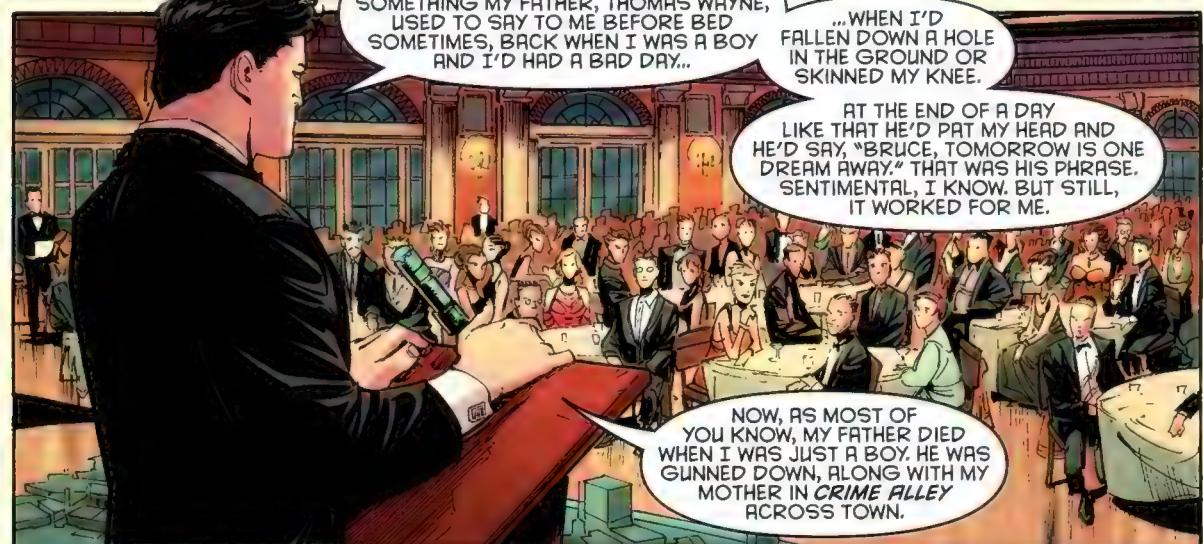
BELIEVE ME,
I'VE BEEN DYING TO.
I JUST WANTED TO MAKE
SURE YOU DISCONNECTED
IT FROM THE MAIN-
FRAME FIRST.

SO...A
CONTACT LENS
WITH REMOTE
ACCESS?

MEANING,
ANYWHERE
YOU GO, THE
BATCAVE
GOES WITH
YOU?







...IF WE ASK OURSELVES WHAT CAN BE--WHAT WILL BE--TOMORROW... THEN WE'RE ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTION. BECAUSE TO HOPE, TO DREAM, TO PREDICT IS TO **SHAPE** THE CITY YOURSELF, RATHER THAN TO BE SHAPED BY IT.

SO, PUTTING MY MONEY WHERE MY MOUTH IS...

...NEXT MONTH, WAYNE ENTERPRISES WILL BEGIN INVESTING--AGGRESSIVELY AND IMMEDIATELY--IN GOTHAM'S FUTURE.

WORKING WITH VARIOUS DOMESTIC DESIGN FIRMS, WE'VE ALREADY SET IN MOTION AN INITIATIVE TO REBUILD SOME OF GOTHAM'S MOST DERELICT INDUSTRIAL NEIGHBORHOODS. FROM THERE, WE PLAN ON MOVING BOLDLY TO EXPAND AND MODERNIZE GOTHAM'S PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM.

I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW EXCITED, HOW **HOPEFUL** I AM ABOUT THESE PLANS. MUCH MORE WILL BE REVEALED IN THE COMING DAYS, BUT FOR NOW, I ASK YOU TO DO THIS...

LOOK PAST WHAT GOTHAM WAS, WHAT GOTHAM IS...AND IMAGINE WITH ME, JUST FOR A MOMENT...

...GOTHAM AS IT WILL BE...

→GASP!←



THANK YOU... NOW WHAT I ASK OF YOU, FRIENDS, IS TO INVEST WITH ME. INVEST IN GOTHAM'S FUTURE. BECAUSE I PROMISE YOU, IF WE CAN ALL DO THAT, TOGETHER...

CLAP! CLAP!

BRAVO! BRAVO!







...I NEED TO
GET SOME AIR.

RAINDROPS.
EVIDENCE. NO
MATCH.

GEEZ,
THEY GROW
THEM STUPID
NOWADAYS.

NO, YOU
RANK STOOGES,
PROP THE WEATHER
TARP FIRST!

HELLO,
HARVEY.
BACK
TO STEALTH
MODE, I
SEE.
COME
ON. LET'S
GO LOOK
AT SOME
ART.

THE LANDLORD FOUND HIM ON A ROUTINE RENT RUN.

HE WENT BY THE NAME SAM STRIGS, BUT WHEN WE RAN IT, TURNED OUT TO BE A PHONY. GUY HAS NO CREDIBLE I.D. IN THE APARTMENT. NOTHING ON HIS PRINTS. HE PAID EVERYTHING IN CASH. A TRUE BLUE JOHN DOE.

EVIDENCE POINTS TO A T.O.D. FIVE, MAYBE SIX DAYS AGO, WHEN SOMEONE DECIDED TO USE HIM AS A HUMAN DART BOARD.

THING IS, WHOEVER DID IT MISSED EVERY ONE OF JOHN DOE'S MAJOR ARTERIES--ON PURPOSE.

MEANING THEY WANTED TO HURT HIM VERY BADLY, FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

THE POTSTICKERS ARE--

ANTIQUE THROWING KNIVES, PROFESSIONAL GRADE. THE GROOVES ARE FILLED WITH MERCURY FOR STEADIER FLIGHT.

I'D LIKE TO TAKE ONE.

HELL, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE GOING TO RUN OUT.

MAKE ANYTHING OF THE SYMBOL?

IT'S AN OWL.

HAR. I MEANT, DO YOU THINK IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE OLD WIFE'S TALE ABOUT THE C--

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEANT.

RUN DNA ANALYSIS. LOOKS LIKE SKIN BEHIND THE VICTIM'S FINGERNAILS, POSSIBLY THE KILLER'S.

RUNNING AMPFLP NOW.

SNIFF SNIFF





...OR MAYBE HE WAS USING IT TO LEAVE A LAST MESSAGE, A WARNING, BEFORE HE WAS MURDERED.

WELL, OUR JOHN DOE WASN'T ANY NOSTRADAMUS, THAT'S FOR SURE.

I'M JUST SAYING, IF OUR TIME OF DEATH FOR HIM WAS A WEEK AGO, THE "TOMORROW" HE THOUGHT WOULD BE WAYNE'S LAST DAY ALREADY CAME AND WENT. SO WAYNE'S IN THE CLEAR.

UNLESS JOHN DOE KNEW WHEN HE'D BE FOUND. YOU SAID THE LANDLORD WAS MAKING A ROUTINE RUN. I ASSUME HE--

ALWAYS CAME ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH...SO IT'S POSSIBLE OUR VICTIM KNEW HE WAS GOING TO DIE, KNEW HE WAS GOING TO BE FOUND TODAY, AND SO LEFT A WARNING THAT WHOEVER KILLED HIM WOULD BE COMING AFTER WAYNE NEXT.

THEN TO THE KILLER I SAY GOOD LUCK. WAYNE'S SECURITY HAS SECURITY.

ANYONE GOING TO TAKE A CRACK AT THE GUY IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE SOMEONE CLOSE. SOMEONE IN WAYNE'S CIRCLE, WOULD BE MY GUESS.

MAKES YOU ALMOST FEEL BAD FOR THE GUY.



ALMOST?

I KNOW YOU AND WAYNE ARE PALS AND ALL THAT. BUT GUYS LIKE WAYNE, THEY DON'T GET HOW THE CITY WORKS THE WAY WE DO.

I MEAN, I LISTENED TO HIS SPEECH TONIGHT ON THE RADIO. ALL ABOUT WHAT GOTHAM "IS" AND "WAS" AND "WILL BE."

WHEN
IT COMES
TO GOTHAM,
THOUGH--
QUIET.

YOU'RE
SURE.

QUIET,
SIR. THE SKIN
CELLS BENEATH
THE VICTIM'S
FINGERNAILS
CAME BACK
A PERFECT
MATCH...

LOOK, I
DIDN'T MEAN TO
KNOCK YOUR
BOY WAYNE. I'M
JUST SAYING...

...MY VIEW IS, WHEN IT COMES TO
GOTHAM, YOU DON'T KNOW IT,
BROTHER. IT KNOWS YOU.

"AND THE MOMENT YOU THINK
OTHERWISE, THE MOMENT YOU
GET TOO COMFORTABLE..."

"...THAT'S WHEN IT STABS
YOU RIGHT IN THE BACK."

DNA Match: Dick Grayson

"BECAUSE ABOVE EVERYTHING,
GOTHAM IS... A MYSTERY."

NEXT:
TRUST FALL



RED HOOD AND THE OUTLAWS

SCOTT LOBDELL (writer)
KENNETH ROCAFORT (artist)

1. What do you love about writing/drawing this character?

Scott: I love how joyful RED HOOD & THE OUTLAWS feels to me. Yeah, all three of them come from a dark place—Jason came back from the dead, Roy from addiction and Kori from a childhood spent in slavery—but there is something about the three of them coming together that allows them to look at life through different sets of eyes. They're better for the experience of knowing each other. There is a lot of action and bloodshed and violence in the story, but at its heart, it's a story of redemption.

Kenneth: Red Hood is pure action mixed with dramatic life events. Jason also has a lot of attitude, and now the mask doesn't conceal his emotions.

2. What is your favorite thing about your part in the new 52?

Scott: The trust that DC has placed in me to help sharpen the focus on or, in some cases, redefine some of these characters.

Kenneth: ...making history!

3. Can you tease the villains he will be fighting? What villains would you like to draw?

Kenneth: New ones, which all of you will see soon.

Scott: I will say there has never been—and may never be again—a super-villain like Suzie Su. She is without peer. Seriously, no offense to everyone else, but Kenneth Rocafort has designed The Villain for the 52!

4. What new thing are you doing with this character?

Kenneth: Adding more body language, expressions and an extreme sense of coldness in battle.

Scott: I am moving Jason away from being so obsessed with Batman. The "B" word is brought up only twice in the first six issues, neither time by Jason. He's moving on, and I'm happy to be moving on with him!

5. How will you shock readers?

Kenneth: With a visual atmosphere that fuses with and complements Scott's writing.

Scott: I think Jason himself is going to become genuinely shocked that he comes to care for Roy and Kori as the stories progress. He hasn't had a lot of experience with friendships, so this is all pretty new to him.

5.2 What is your favorite page in this first issue and why?

Scott: Kori stepping out of the ocean, just basking in the sunshine. I love the joy on her face. The people of this planet may not want her here... but God, how she loves this place.

Kenneth: I like them all and can't choose!



RED HOOD AND THE OUTLAWS—SCOTT LOBDELL & KENNETH ROCAFORT
BLUE BEETLE—TONY BEDARD & IG GUARA

BLUE BEETLE

TONY BEDARD (writer)
IG GUARA (artist)

1. What do you love about writing or drawing these characters?

Tony: Jaime Reyes is funny and imperfect and realistic. Plus, as a Puerto Rican who grew up in the States I relate very directly to him culturally. And I adore writing science fiction, so it's basically a dream job.

Ig: It's a dream come true for me to work on this Beetle is a character with a LOT of potential for great action and stories. The scripts are amazing too, I feel that I can REALLY connect with the characters.

2. What is your favorite thing about your part in the new 52?

Ig: Besides drawing one of my favorite characters? Being part of a really bold move by DC—something that can change the way we see comics!

Tony: I get to launch two very different new series—GREEN LANTERN: NEW GUARDIANS, and BLUE BEETLE. It's like starring in a summer blockbuster and a really cool indie film at the same time!

3. Can you tease the villains they will be fighting?

Tony: Early on Beetle faces the Brotherhood of Evil, and he'll also run afoul of the Green Lantern Corps!

Ig: There will also be a villain more attached to Jaime's life and city—a vicious and beautiful mob boss!!

4. What new things are you doing with these characters?

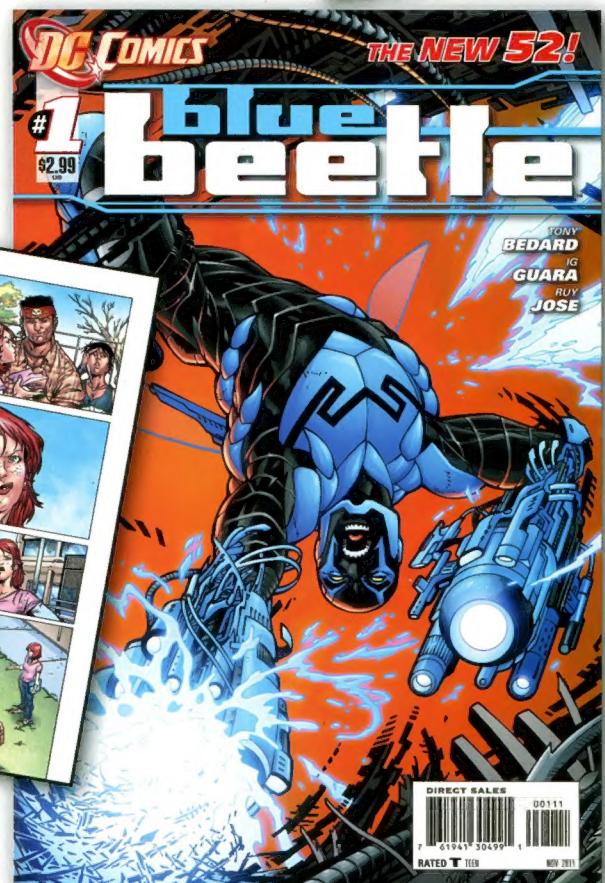
Tony: Since we get to retell his origin in September, this time around Jaime will have a much harder time controlling the armor, and he won't get to tell everyone close to him his big secret.

Ig: The only thing I didn't change was Beetle's design—the original one is so modern and awesome. But you will be amazed by what he can do in the new series—trust me on that!

5. How will you shock readers?

Ig: By making the action really fast and explosive and the emotional moments as real as possible. This book is way more than people think.

Tony: I think readers will be shocked by how great an artist Ig Guara is! We've also got a few crazy twists in the opening issues, but if you want shock, DO NOT miss BLUE BEETLE #4!



One of the highlights of being a comic book editor or (in my case) art director is getting to work with some of the most talented writers and artists in the world. But you have to be careful: you should never play favorites or say that you like "this" artist's work more than "that" artist's work. That's just unprofessional.

With that in mind, I'm NOT going to say how awesome Cliff Chiang's artwork is. I'm also NOT going to tell you how he and writer Brian Azzarello are crafting the new Wonder Woman series into one of my absolute favorites of the "NEW 52."

I won't say any of that, but rather I'll let you decide for yourself that I'm absolutely right and that Cliff Chiang's art is just astounding.

Mark Chiarello
VP, Art and Design Director

Next... Bob Harras

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SEP 21 2011

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